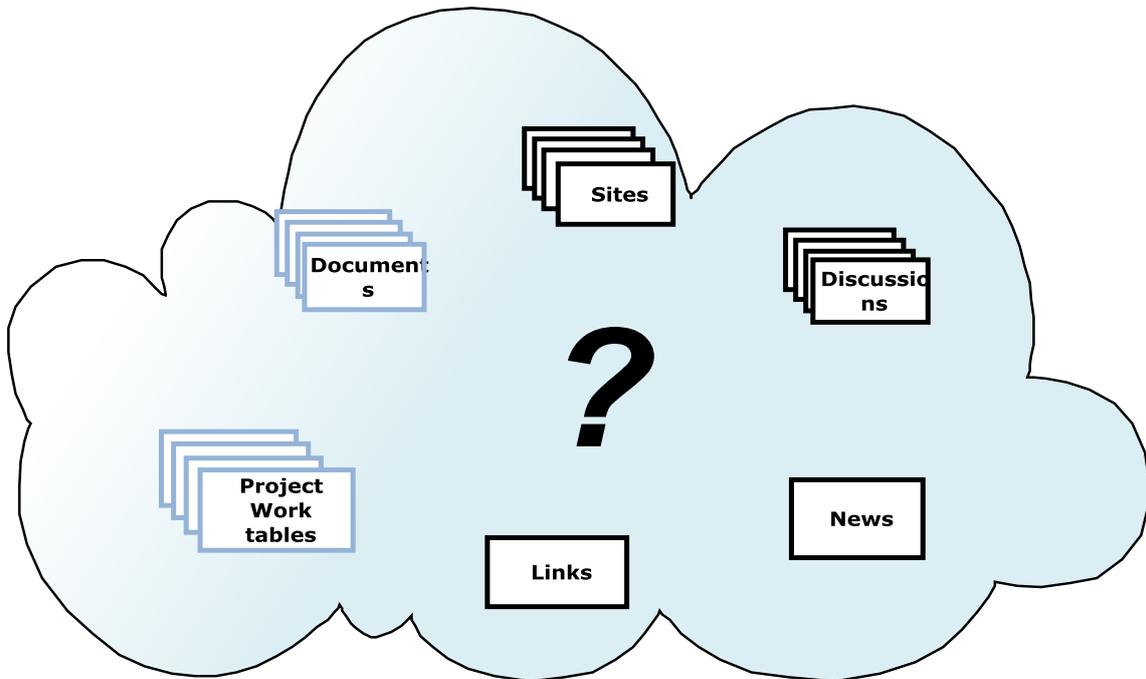


e-Learning/e-Working platforms



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1 E-work/e-Learning platforms

Here is basic information about what e-learning/e-work platforms which could be used for the e-work projects. There are also links to some free and commercial platform pages, used at the moment.

1.1 Generally

An e-learning/e-work platform is a software application which integrates different management tools, communication, evaluation, monitoring etc. together on a common platform. The aim is to provide technological support to teachers and students for optimizing the phases of the teaching-learning process for e-learning/e-work studying. Professionally it is also in use at companies and economy life as a “project tool” when subcontracting companies or departments are working together

Traditionally e-Learning has been “one direction” learning using material and doing tasks saved in an internet platform. Collaborating has happened between students and teachers but not with other students. Material and tasks have done by the teachers or commercial companies and distributed to the students and teachers from “internet platform table”.

The aim of the PLIME project was that e-Learning could be technology supported everyday e-Work and to move forward from distribution of learning materials towards production of new e-learning/e-Work materials. To move the focus of learning closer towards the participant centred project learning method, increasing motivation, improving language skills, making international activities with the everyday school work.

e-Work platforms are “project work platforms” for doing projects and products in different places, different companies, different times, different countries and finally aiming to fit parts together for the final product. At the moment this type of working is widely used in international companies and economy life. The future seems to be that e-working is increasing rapidly. So the VET schools should take it to their programs too. To change traditional learning/teaching and information sharing methods towards project based learning in international teams and to learn more working together, communication, ICT-skills, languages and to understand different cultures as well.

1.2 Definitions

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

*“A **learning management system (LMS)** is software for delivering, tracking and managing training/education. LMSs range from systems for managing training/educational records to software for distributing courses over the Internet and offering features for online collaboration.”*

1.3 Standards

*As in any activity, some standardization in the tools is required to ensure compatibility between them. In the case of online training, there is a set of standards that allow to “implementing” courses in any kind of platforms. Among the most widely used standards **SCORM (Sharable Content Object Reference Model)** is distinguished by the ease with which they have adopted most of the organizations and institutions involved in e-learning. “**Sharable Content Object Reference Model (SCORM)** is a collection of standards and specifications for web-based [e-learning](#). It defines communications between client side content and a host system called the run-time environment (commonly a function of a [learning management system](#)). SCORM also defines how content may be packaged into a transferable [ZIP](#) file.”*

1.4 What is the best e-Work platform?

A simple answer is:

“The best platform is it which can be used by the every partner and respond to the project needs!”

More information also from LdV-project: “**eTutors** <http://www.etutors-portal.net/>

“The e-Tutors PORTAL Project was a Project in the frame of Leonardo da Vinci Programme and was a network of 15 Partners with competencies and a broad experience on Education and Training in 12 European Countries. This multi-lingual portal was intended to help organisations, trainers and anyone wishing to embark on eLearning projects, quickly identify the challenges involved and develop sustainable responses to increase the probability of success when implementing their eLearning plans”.

A truth is also that the most companies and economy life don't use “free platforms” because of the security in internet and the programs. The VET schools should teach students to use programs and platforms what they probably need in the future. This is a problem because commercial programs are quite expensive. The schools are working by the very limited budget and normally they have no money to pay licence fees.

In the most cases the schools have to use free “open source” programs and they should choose the programs and platform which are as near as possible commercial products.

Another truth is that neither platform nor program works well if the administration is poor or done as an extra work. Every system needs installing and maintaining the programs and security settings, taking back-up and helping users to use programs. Often users need a training course for the platform. Better, in the every case, if ICT professionals administrate the platforms.

1.5 Features

e-Learning/e-Work platforms should be *suitable, adaptable, personal and extensible*. Here are tasks what the students, teachers and administrators should think and learn when choosing and using a platform.

How is/are on the platform:

1. Administration?
2. Registering to the platform?
3. Starting a project, generating subcategories and content?
4. Carrying out activities, tasks, group work?
5. Adding/deleting/changing documents, tasks, users and their rights?
6. Discussing in forums, chatting and conferencing?
7. Editing documents, pictures, videos?
8. Uploading/downloading documents?
9. Using the calendar?
10. Taking backups?
11. Getting help?
12. Emailing?
13. Testing and evaluating?
14. Compatibility with the programs used in local computers, standardization.

2 e-Learning/e-Work platform examples

Here are some examples about the “Open Source” and commercial e-learning/e-Work platforms. Which is the best depends on the project needs and which can be used by the every partner. The first and the number one thing is that all partners have to have ability to use selected platform. If needed, users have to have a training period for using the platform, to understand its limits and possibilities before the effective cooperation can be possible.

2.1 Open Source platforms:

[ATutor](#), [Dokeos](#), [ILIAS](#), [LRN](#), [Moodle](#), [Sakai](#), [LON-CAPA](#), [Windows Sharepoint Services](#), [Claroline](#)

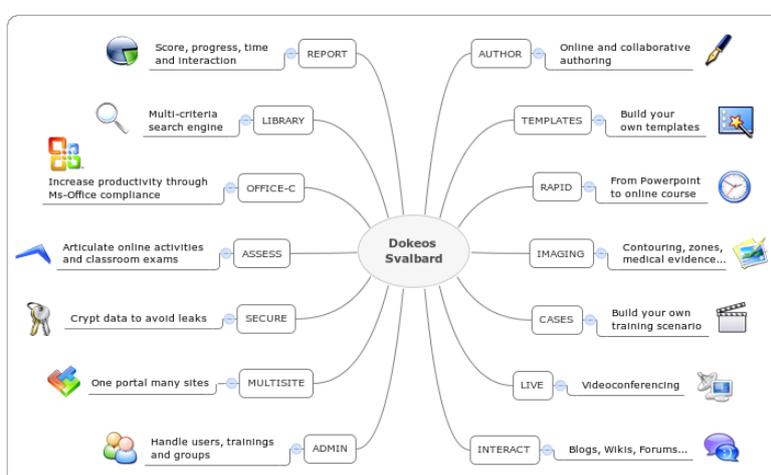
2.1.1 ATutor

<http://www.atutor.ca/index.php>

“ATutor is an Open Source Web-based Learning Content Management System (LCMS) designed with accessibility and adaptability in mind. Administrators can install or update ATutor in minutes, create custom themes to give it a new look, and extent its functionality by enabling or developing feature modules. Educators can quickly assemble, package, and redistribute instructional content, and conduct their courses online. Students learn in an adaptive learning environment.”

2.1.2 Dokeos Free Campus

<http://www.dokeos.com/>



“Dokeos Free Campus is a limited edition of Dokeos, free of charge and available to anybody immediately, with max 20 Mb of content. A good channel to practice with Dokeos Learning Suite or get started immediately with a project that might take months to get started otherwise.”

2.1.3 ILIAS



http://www.ilias.de/docu/goto.php?target=lm_392&client_id=docu

“ILIAS is a powerful Open Source Learning Management System for developing and realising web-based e-learning. The software was developed to reduce the costs of using new media in education and further training and to ensure the maximum level of customer influence in the implementation of the software.

ILIAS is a powerful web-based learning management system that allows you to easily manage learning resources in an integrated system. » [Screenshots and Detailed Information](#)

License: ILIAS is available as open source software under the [GNU General Public License \(GPL\)](#)”.

2.1.4 .LRN



<http://dotlrn.org/>

“.LRN (pronounced "dot learn") is a global community of educators, designers, and software developers who partner together to drive educational innovation. Because the software is open source, organizations can invest their precious dollars in people and curriculum development instead of expensive licensing and support fees.”

2.1.5 Moodle



[http://docs.moodle.org/en/About Moodle](http://docs.moodle.org/en/About_Moodle)

“Moodle is a software package for producing Internet-based courses and web sites. It is a global development project designed to support a social constructionist framework of education.

Moodle is provided freely as Open Source software (under the GNU Public License). Basically this means Moodle is copyrighted, but that you have additional freedoms. You are allowed to copy, use and modify Moodle provided that you agree to: provide the source to others; not modify or remove the original license and copyrights, and apply this same license to any derivative work. Read the license for full details and please contact the copyright holder directly if you have any questions. Come moodle with us”

2.1.6 Sakai

<http://sakaiproject.org/portal/site/sakai-home/page/c2d1c6d8-96e1-4761-bc22-63b8c0eb3fed>

“The Sakai Community develops and distributes the open-source Sakai CLE, an enterprise-ready collaboration and courseware management platform that provides users with a suite of learning, portfolio, library and project tools. Why Use Sakai?”

Designed by educators, for educators. The people building Sakai work at campuses just like yours. We believe they know best what features academic users value.

Flexible, Free and Open. Sakai is a powerful yet flexible solution that supports not only teaching and learning but also research and administrative collaboration. The Sakai CLE is distributed free of charge and our license is designed to encourage innovation and customization in order to meet local campus needs”.

2.1.7 LON-CAPA

<http://www.lon-capa.org/index.html>

*“The Free Open-Source Distributed Learning Content Management and Assessment System
Sharing and using online learning and assessment materials across institutions and disciplines. Since 1993 “*

2.1.8 Windows SharePoint Services (WSS) 3.0

“Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 3.0 is a versatile technology that organizations and business units of all sizes can use to increase the efficiency of business processes and improve team productivity. With tools for collaboration that help people stay connected across organizational and geographic boundaries, Windows SharePoint Services gives people access to information they need.

[Read an overview](#)

[See the top 10 benefits](#)

[Tour a SharePoint site”](#)

2.1.9 Google wave

Coming soon, a new way to collaborate in internet:

“ **Google wave** <http://wave.google.com/help/wave/about.html>

Google Wave is a new tool for communication and collaboration on the web, coming later this year. Watch the demo video below, sign up for updates and learn more about how to develop with Google Wave.



2.1.10 Claroline

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claroline>

“Claroline is a collaborative eLearning and eWorking platform ([Learning Management System](#)) released under [Open Source](#) license ([GPL](#)). It allows hundreds of organizations worldwide (universities, schools, companies, associations,...) to create and administer courses and collaboration spaces through the web. The platform is used in more than 80 countries and is available in more than 30 languages”

<http://www.claroline.net/>

2.1.11 Desire2Learn

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desire2Learn>

“Desire2Learn Incorporated ("D2L") is a global provider of enterprise eLearning solutions and develops online Learning Management Systems ([LMS](#)) for schools, higher education, associations, government and private industry. “ [de-sire2learn.com](http://desire2learn.com)

2.2 Commercial platforms

([Blackboard](#), [ModernLearning](#), [Microsoft Sharepoint Services](#), [SharePointLMS](#), [Joomla](#))

2.2.1 Blackboard

<http://www.blackboard.com/Teaching-Learning/Overview.aspx>

“Learning is our most enduring activity. Throughout life, as we go to school, learn a musical instrument, master a discipline or enhance our professional skills, we’re all perpetual students. And it’s our collective achievement as learners that makes education the key to success.”

2.2.2 ModerLearning



<http://www.modernlearning.de/index.php?id=109&L=1>

“Precisely the learning platform you are looking for. With its technical features and functions, the ModernTrain learning platform is tailored to the needs of schools, vocational training centres and companies.

The central element of ModernTrain is its extensive authoring area. Being part of the platform, it allows users to prepare content without any prior knowledge of programming. Its templates ensure that the pages developed by users have a professional appearance. ModernTrain is compatible with SCORM and also allows users to import external programmes. Its modular system can be enlarged as required.”

2.2.3 Microsoft Sharepoint Server (MSS)



<http://sharepoint.microsoft.com/>

“Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 is an integrated suite of server capabilities that can help improve organizational effectiveness by providing comprehensive content management and enterprise search, accelerating shared business processes, and facilitating information-sharing across boundaries for better business insight. Additionally, this collaboration and content management server provides IT professionals and developers with the platform and tools they need for server administration, application extensibility, and interoperability.

Office SharePoint Server 2007 supports all intranet, extranet, and Web applications across an enterprise within one integrated platform, instead of relying on separate fragmented systems. Additionally, this collaboration and content management server provides IT professionals and developers with the platform and tools they need for server administration, application extensibility, and interoperability.”

2.2.4 SharePointLMS

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia [SharePointLMS](#)

“SharePointLMS is a [Learning Management System](#) which is based on the [Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 & WSS3.0](#) platform. SharePointLMS is an [.Net](#)-based application that is designed to be scalable, reliable, and secure. SharePointLMS is [SCORM](#) 1.2 and 2004 compliant and enables users to import courses either created using [SCORM](#) Rapid Elearning [authoring tools](#) or off the shelf acquired [SCORM](#) packages.”

2.2.5 JoomlaLMS



<http://www.joomlaims.com/>

“JoomlaLMS is an aggregate of powerful e-learning tools. It is a fully functional e-learning system with innovative training / testing options (self-assessments) and advanced conferencing applications. JoomlaLMS provides powerful and popular e-learning features.”